

In re Appln. of KIM et al.
Application No. 10/046,832

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed October 18, 2004, Applicants amend their application and request continued examination. No claims are cancelled and new claims 29 and 30 are added so that claims 12 and 14-30 are now pending.

New claims 29 and 30 are supported in the original patent application by Figure 3. It can be seen by inspecting that figure that the address electrodes 26 are periodically arranged, with uniform spacing between closest pairs of the address electrodes.

Claims 20 and 28 were rejected as indefinite. Each of these claims includes the word "approximately". While Applicants do not believe that this word makes those claims indefinite, the word objected to is eliminated here in order to advance the prosecution.

In this Amendment the two independent claims 12 and 21 are amended in a similar way. The amendments make clear that each of the auxiliary partition walls and auxiliary partition wall portions are located opposite a corresponding address electrode. This arrangement is supported by and illustrated in Figure 2 of the patent application. It can be seen in that figure that every auxiliary wall is opposite one of the address electrode 26. Of course, at different parts of the display panel auxiliary partition walls and auxiliary partition wall portions can be opposite different parts of the same address electrode. Stated another way, multiple auxiliary partition walls and multiple auxiliary partition wall portions are opposite any one of the address electrodes at different locations in the display panel.

All pending claims, claims 12 and 14-28, were rejected as unpatentable over Whang et al. (U.S. Patent 6,373,195, hereinafter Whang) in view of Sakai et al. (U.S. Patent 6,498,430, hereinafter Sakai). This rejection is again traversed.

In addition to the remarks that follow, Applicants maintain the previously present arguments that distinguish the claimed invention from the repeated rejection. For the reasons previously presented, Applicants continue to contend that the rejection is erroneous and that the previously presented claims are patentable over Whang in view of Sakai. A further amendment is made here to advance the prosecution to a successful conclusion.

As discussed at length in the previous responses, only Sakai describes a plasma display panel having wall with different widths. Because of the limited disclosure of Sakai, the particular arrangement of main partition walls and auxiliary partition walls in Sakai cannot be determined. What is clearly described in Sakai is the interposition of address electrodes 3 between a substrate 1 and the material forming the partition walls.

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Attention is directed to each of the figures of Sakai, all of which show that the address electrodes 3 are directly opposite the grooves defined by some kind of partition walls. No matter whether those partition walls in Sakai are main partition walls or auxiliary partition walls, the address electrodes cannot be considered to be opposite any partition walls as in the structures defined by the claims now presented.

It has already been conceded by the Examiner that Whang does not describe an arrangement of main partition walls and auxiliary partition walls of different widths as in the plasma display panel described in the independent claims, claims 12 and 21. Moreover, Sakai does not include sufficient disclosure to supply the claimed arrangement of main partition walls of uniform width and auxiliary partition walls of varying widths. Therefore, no modification of Whang with Sakai can suggest the claimed invention.

Applicants acknowledge that Figure 12 of Whang does show an arrangement with discharge cells having different areas and address electrodes that overlay the partition walls that are vertical in Figure 12 of Whang. However, that figure cannot be modified with Sakai to establish *prima facie* obviousness of any pending claim. If the arrangement of some variable-width partition walls is to be borrowed from Sakai and substituted into Whang, what is to be done with the address electrodes of Whang? According to Sakai, the address electrodes should be opposite the grooves or discharge cells. According to Whang, the address electrodes are to be directly opposite some set of partition walls. How is this difference to be resolved? Which set of address electrodes is to be adopted? The address electrodes of Sakai that naturally follow the substitution of Saka's variable width walls in Whang or the Whang address electrode arrangement that makes no sense in the Sakai wall arrangement? Since there is no suggestion in either Whang or Sakai for resolving this conflict, *prima facie* of the structures claimed here cannot be established by modifying Whang with Sakai.

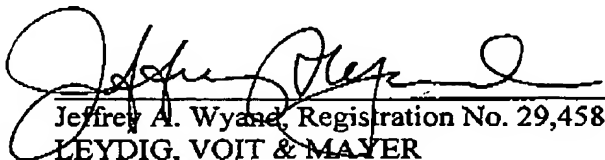
This conflict between the address electrode arrangements of Whang and Sakai is still more clearly brought out in the added claims 29 and 30. In the structures according to those claims, the address electrodes are arranged at a uniform interval. In Figure 12 of Whang, the only pertinent figure of Whang, the address electrodes are not and cannot be arranged at a uniform interval. Sakai seems to describe an arrangement in which the address electrodes 3 are arranged at a uniform pitch for some, but not all, depicted embodiments in which the address electrodes are opposite grooves, not partition walls. It is impossible to adopt the uniform address electrode spacing of Sakai in Whang without significantly modifying the partition wall structure of Whang. Yet, even if some modification of the partition walls is made in Whang based on Sakai, how would the

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arrangement of address electrodes in the structures defined by claims 29 and 30 be achieved? There is no answer, or even a suggestion of an answer, in Whang or Sakai because there are too many variables to juggle in making the modification necessary to support the rejection. The structures of claims 29 and 30 cannot, therefore, be obvious in view of any combination of the references, independent of the patentability of the other pending claims.

For the foregoing reasons, claims 12 and 14-30 clearly distinguish from the current rejection. Therefore, upon reconsideration, all pending claims should be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this Response (along with any documents referred to as attached or enclosed) is being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Attention: Examiner D. Dong, Art Unit 2879, Facsimile Number 703-872-9306, on the date indicated.

Date: February 18, 2005

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